

# Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

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## UFO Float

For the seventh year, the United Filipino Organization is joining the annual CNMI Liberation Day parade on July 4, highlighting the Camp Susupe liberation in 1946.

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## GF Wanted

Mark Bautista confessed that he used to feel uncomfortable on the set of his noon-time variety show, "ASAP," whenever couple Christian Bautista and Rachelle Ann Go were around.

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# Pacquiao

## Mexico's Larios guns for upset

# out to inspire nation



Philippine boxing champion Manny Pacquiao, left, and Mexican challenger Oscar Larios show their fighting stance during their final news conference Thursday June 29, 2006 at suburban Mandaluyong city east of Manila leading to their 12-round WBC International Super-Featherweight bout boxing dubbed "Mano-A-Mano" on Sunday July 2, 2006. Pacquiao is guaranteed \$1-million US dollars while Larios gets \$450,000 US dollars.

By JIM GOMEZ  
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Manny Pacquiao hopes a win over Oscar Larios tomorrow will do much to cheer his troubled Philippine homeland, while his Mexican opponent plans to use the bout as a platform to greater boxing heights—and purses.

Boxing analysts rate Pacquiao, 27, as the heavy favorite to successfully defend his WBC super featherweight title against 29-year-old challenger Larios in a 12-round bout in Manila's suburban Quezon City.

Millions of Filipinos are expected to be on hand to cheer the fast-punching

**PACQUIAO Page 2**

## Pacquiao-mania reaches Saipan shores

Members of the Filipino community and local boxing fans will join the rest of world in witnessing Filipino boxer and national icon Manny Pacquiao defend his title against Mexican star Oscar Larios tomorrow, July 2, 2006.

"Mano-a-Mano," the fight for the WBC International super featherweight crown, will be aired live via satellite exclusively at Saipan World Resort on Sunday.

**PACQUIAO-MANIA Page 2**

## OFWs want say on Charter change moves

By VERONICA UY  
INQ7.NET

Filipino leaders from the United States, Saudi Arabia, Canada, Singapore, and Hong Kong are in Manila to ask authorities that they be consulted in all discussions on charter change.

**OFWS Page 2**

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# PINOYNEWS

## 'Heed RP govt's warning on Iraq, Afghanistan'

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**  
REPORTER

The Philippine Overseas Labor Office in the CNMI is asking all Filipinos, especially here in the Commonwealth, to heed the Philippine government's warning against working in Iraq and Afghanistan, reiterating the continuing ban on the deployment of OFWs to these countries.

According to CNMI POLO labor representative Joanne

Lourdes Lavilla, this is in relation to a recent Philippine Overseas Employment Agency's statement disclaiming responsibility in the processing of documents for some Filipinos who were allegedly hired as a "civilian fighting force."

Lavilla said the July 2004 ban on the deployment of Filipino workers to Iraq has not been lifted and the reported deployment of security forces to Iraq and Afghanistan did not pass

the documentation system of the government.

The labor representative said that media reports in the Philippines had mentioned that the "civilian fighting force" would be receiving at least \$2,000 as monthly salary, with a Php15 million life insurance. She warned Filipinos to think twice before taking such job.

"Money can't compensate the life of your relatives," she said, adding that Filipinos should think

beyond the money and consider their own or their relatives' safety.

The POEA report said that the government allowed the recruitment of Filipino workers for Iraq in the latter part of 2003 but only for deployment to campsites, which were found safe from attacks from Iraqi rebels and terrorists.

"Most of the deployed work-

ers were assigned to do construction, maintenance, house-keeping and catering jobs inside American camps," POEA said.

The deployment of Filipinos to Afghanistan was also allowed but was limited to professionals working in projects controlled by the United Nations. POEA only processed the contracts of these workers after an endorse-

ment and clearance from the Department of Foreign Affairs.

"There are other employment opportunities and destination like Australia and Spain," said Lavilla, adding that perhaps Filipinos could consider working in Iraq if the war-torn country has already stabilized its securities and safety.

## Migrant Workers' Day honors sponsors

By **MARCONI CALINDAS**  
REPORTER

The recently concluded Migrant Workers' Day celebration has prompted the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Saipan office to extend its gratitude to local sponsors, groups and individuals for their enduring support to OWWA programs.

OWWA welfare officer Mary Dait, together with Philippine Consul General Wilfredo DL. Maximo, presented certificates of appreciation to the sponsors during the Migrant Workers' Day held on June 3 at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan's Hibiscus Hall.

Dait said the first recipient of the certificate was none other than the president of Tan Holdings Corp., Jerry Tan, who received the award on behalf of the Tan Holdings management.

"For school year 2006, Tan Holdings employees compose the majority of the Tuloy-Aral sponsors," said Dait.

She said the Tan Holdings Employees Volunteer Group has sponsored 10 unfortunate children in the Philippines, who will now be able to continue their elementary education.

Tan Holdings officer Eli Arago accepted the certificate that night.

OWWA also recognized OFW Support Group officers Dang Bernabe and Gabe De Guzman "who unselfishly exerted time and effort to convince other OFWs to become sponsors.

Dait also awarded certificates to some Filipino nurses and doctors in the CNMI for extending their assistance during OWWA's Health Screening Program for OFWs. De Guzman, Ernie Molina, Jose Gregorio Limpin, Susan De Veyra, Natividad Asna, Vivian Concepcion, Felisa Legaspi and Marcel Puguon received the certificates.

OWWA also recognized the assistance of the local media by giving away certificates to the Saipan Tribune and KWAU FM Magic 100. KWAU's Jimmy Blancia received the certificate.

Lastly, OWWA recognized the OFW Support Group for providing assistance to OWWA's programs and projects specifically on community reach out, welfare assistance, reintegration preparedness and special projects.

"The OWWA family is truly grateful for your support," said Dait.

## PACQUIAO

FROM PAGE 1

Pacquiao at Araneta Coliseum and on TV, but experts say an upset by the well-trained Larios can't be ruled out.

Both fighters, smiling and appearing relaxed at a news conference Thursday, predicted victory.

"I trained for 12 rounds, but if a knockout occurs, that would be a bonus," said a confidently beaming Pacquiao, nicknamed "The Destroyer."

Larios said he's not intimidated by Pacquiao's home advantage, adding he would show the world that "it's not impossible to beat Manny Pacquiao."

"They love him, but they can't throw punches for him," Larios' promoter, Rafael Mendoza, said of Pacquiao's vocal supporters. "There will only be two fighters in the ring."

## PACQUIAO-MANIA

FROM PAGE 1

Two giant screens and six more TV sets will be set up at the hotel's Royal Taga Ballroom to ensure that the expected 600-strong audience will not miss a punch.

"The only place that you will see this fight is at the Saipan World Resort," said MCV system manager Mark Birmingham.

MCV Broadband has tied up with World Resort, Miller Lite, Pepsi, Dial Rent-To-Own, and ABS-CBN's The Filipino

Channel to present the 12-round championship bout live from the Araneta Coliseum, which hosted Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier's "Thrilla in Manila" fight three decades ago.

Tickets are selling fast, Birmingham said.

As of Friday, all of the \$35 VIP tickets had been sold out. Fortunately for boxing enthusiasts, there are still some general admission tickets available at \$25 each. Tickets will be sold at the MCV Office in Marianas Business Plaza (formerly Nauru Building) in Susupe until 12

noon today, July 1, 2006. Tickets may be purchased at the World Resort's front desk after that.

The \$25 ticket includes a hamburger or a hotdog sandwich and a softdrink. Other food and beverage will be available at reasonable prices.

Birmingham encouraged the public to purchase their tickets by today because seating is limited. Doors to the event will open at 9am Sunday. Preliminary fights will be shown starting 11am, while Pacquiao and Larios' bout will begin at 12:50pm. (Agnes E. Donato)

He has fostered a sense of hope among many Filipinos, who are fed up with the country's turbulent politics.

"He's a knight in shining armor; the only credible reason why we're happy now," Rivera said.

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## OFWS

FROM PAGE 1

In an interview with INQ7.net, Victor Barrios, a consultant for the World Bank based in San Francisco, said Filipinos overseas whose remittances are keeping the country afloat have been kept out of such discussions.

He said they will ask government, political, and civic leaders to include them in discussions as any amendments to the Constitution could affect them, their families and business associates in the Philippines.

"We are not anti-GMA (Gloria Macapagal Arroyo), we are not pro-GMA. We are not anti-Cha-cha (charter change), we are not pro-Cha-cha. We are not going there. We come here to convey our desire for equal

rights. As Filipinos overseas, we should have the same rights as Filipinos here," he said.

Barrios, who organized town hall meetings in California to discuss proposals to amend the Constitution, initiated the meetings with Filipino leaders from abroad.

He is the primary convenor and moderator of Global Forum on the Proposed Constitutional Changes.

"We were surprised by the responses, the diversity of opinions," said another convenor, Lito Gutierrez, editor in chief of Philippine News, the oldest Filipino newspaper in America.

"We want a mechanism to push this agenda," he said.

Among the recommendations of the Advocacy Commission for Charter Change is for the

creation of a unicameral, federal form of government.

The overseas Filipinos say this will take away their right to vote for national elective positions which they reacquired in the 2004 elections through the Overseas Absentee Voting Law.

In the meetings the group plans to seek with the President, Speaker Jose de Venecia, some legislators, and even the media, Barrios said the idea they want to present is: Once a Filipino, always a Filipino.

Among those who attended their first meetings on Wednesday were Acier Lotilla of Canada's South East Women Foundation, Meann Gonzalez from Hong Kong, Marie Arga from Singapore, and Jun Aguilar of Saudi Arabia's Filipino Migrant Workers.

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# UFO float to reenact Camp Susupe liberation

By **LIBERTY DONES**  
REPORTER

For the seventh year, the United Filipino Organization is joining the annual CNMI Liberation Day parade on July 4, highlighting the Camp Susupe liberation in 1946.

UFO board chair Ed Reyes said this would be the first time

that the Filipino group will be deviating from the usual Philippine cultural presentation during the parade.

He said that part of the rules in this year's Liberation Day parade is for the participants to capture the Camp Susupe theme.

"In the past years, we'd always show Philippine culture

in the design of the float. This year, we will feature the Camp Susupe liberation. We already did some research as a basis for our design," said Reyes.

The UFO has gained an impressive record in the annual Liberation Day float competition, winning four times—first prize and second prize twice each—in the Best in Float category during the six-year period.

The group first joined the annual parade in 2000 and won second place in the float category. UFO won the first prize in 2001; second prize in 2002; and first prize again in 2005.

The Liberation Day organizing committee gives away trophies and cash prizes to the

winners: \$2,500 for the first place, \$2,000 for the second place, \$1,500 for the third place, \$1,000 for the fourth place, and \$500 for the fifth place.

Reyes said UFO also donates portions of its prize money to socio-civic projects.

For instance, he said that UFO donated to the man'amko and the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter last year.

The UFO float is being built by volunteers from different Filipino organizations. Volunteers gather in the evening in a vacant lot in Puerto Rico to build it.

Reyes, a civil engineer, is in charge of the float design.

He said the UFO gets discounts or donated materials



Reyes

have reportedly signed up for the float competition in this year's parade. According to Liberation Day Float and Parade committee chair Larry I. Guerrero, these groups include the Chuukese Association, Man'amko Center/Office on Aging, Mayor's Youth Learning Center, Nature's Treasure Island, San Roque Community, United Filipino Organization, Smiling Cove Marina, the Army Reserve and the Veterans of Foreign Wars, and DFS Galleria.

The July 4 parade begins at 9am on Beach Road, from Quartermaster to American Memorial Park. The road from the Horiguchi Building in Garapan to Quartermaster Road will be closed from 7am for the assembly.

## LABOR FRONT

### How to count the 45 days given to find new employer

By **FERDIE P. DE LA TORRE**  
REPORTER

**Q: How does one count the 45-day window that is given a nonresident worker to find a new employer? (This question, along with the answer, is being reprinted because of its importance to employers and nonresident workers).**

**A:** After the expiration of his or her employment contract, a nonresident worker may seek a new employer without the necessity of exiting the Commonwealth. In such a case, no reimbursement or indemnification is required of the former employer by the new employer.

According to the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, Labor shall strictly enforce the requirement of a 30-day notice by the employer to renew or not to renew the contract of a nonresident worker. If a "notice not to renew" is served upon the employee 30 days prior to the end of his or her contract, the employee shall have 15 days after the end of the contract term to find a new job.

If the employer fails to serve the "notice not to renew" 30 days before the expiration of the worker's contract, then the employee shall have a total of 45 days after the end of the contract term to find a new job. The 45 days run from the date of expiration of the previous contract to the date of submission of a completed application. If, at the end of such period the nonresident worker has not found a new job, he or she must depart the Commonwealth or be subject to deportation as provided by law.

In the same manner, if a nonresident employee does not plan to renew his or her contract with an employer, he or she must give the employer 30 days notice of intent not to renew the contract. If the employee fails to give the 30-day notice, the employee has only 15 days following the expiration of his or her contract to find a new employer.

**Q: What will happen if an employer or a nonresident worker fails to appear at a Labor hearing?**

**A:** Except for good cause shown, failure of a party to show up at a hearing after being served notice to appear shall be deemed to constitute a waiver of his or her right to pursue or contest the allegations in the complaint.

If a party defaults, the Labor administrative hearing officer may enter an initial or final decision containing such findings, appropriate conclusions, and order.

**Q: Are settlement discussions between an employer and a worker involved in a Labor case confidential?**

**A:** Yes. Pursuant to the Alien Labor Rules and Regulations, all discussions between the parties during settlement negotiations shall be off-the-record. No evidence regarding statements or conduct in the proceedings under this section is admissible in the instant proceeding or any subsequent administrative proceeding before a government agency or court, except by stipulation of the parties or for a prosecution for perjury.

Documents disclosed in the settlement process may not be used in litigation unless obtained through appropriate discovery or subpoena or other sources separate from the settlement discussions.

Submit questions on labor issues to *Saipan Tribune* via e-mail at [editor@saipantribune.com](mailto:editor@saipantribune.com), or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the *Saipan Tribune's* office on the second floor of the CIC Centre on Beach Road, Garapan.

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# NZ opens doors to Filipino students

By **CORA LLAMAS**  
INQ7.NET

Not too long ago, international students who finished their degree in New Zealand and wanted to work and live in the country had to return home first after the expiration of their visas, and then go through the arduous process (usually one to two years) of compiling papers and undergoing a rigorous assessment for a working or permanent visa.

But immigration laws have now been relaxed a bit to allow foreign graduates of New Zea-

land schools to seek employment and process their working papers within six months after graduation. They don't even need a job offer (although that would help tremendously) to apply for a work visa.

"It is a six-month window of opportunity," says Felix Cleofas, general manager of the New Aussie Educational Consultancy Services (NAECS) which, for the past four years, has been sending students to one of the most sought-after countries of would-be immigrants.

This should be welcome news to Filipinos thinking of

New Zealand, with its low crime rate, healthy economy, growing industries, and comfortable, stress-free living, as the next promised land. But it is not easy to get the New Zealand Immigration to consider inviting an interested foreign national to apply for a permanent residence visa.

Still, according to the Immigration New Zealand website ([www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)), in a recent selection, Filipinos ranked fourth among those granted the most entry at 11.2 percent. Applicants from mother country Great Britain

unsurprisingly ranked first at 23.6 percent, followed by China at 19.1 percent and a cluster of other countries at 16.8 percent. Trailing the Philippines were India (7.8 percent), South Africa (6.1 percent), USA (4.9 percent), the Fiji Islands (3.7 percent), Malaysia (2.4 percent), Canada (1.8 percent), Germany (1.3 percent), and Japan (1.3 percent).

## Booming industries

The standards may be stringent, but the nation with a land mass similar to Japan's and the United Kingdom's and a small

population of 4.2 million needs skilled, educated workers for its booming industries.

Bruce Osborne, director of International Business of the Universal College of Learning says, "There are hundreds of job vacancies but not many people to fill them all. [What we are looking for] is not low-skilled labor, but computer literate, highly skilled, creative-trades people who can do the stuff."

Actively supporting the search is the education sector, with New Zealand's eight universities and 20 institutes of technology (also known as

polytechnic) in sync with the businesses in their respective communities.

UCOL has two iconic programs: nursing and computer graphic design, the latter supporting "3-D modeling and animation, and a large film industry." It also graduates people in television, print, and multimedia industries.

Jim Baker, program manager of Northland Polytechnic says, "We have courses in agriculture, forestry, marine construction and boat-building. We put [our students] in apprenticeships in local industries."

## Hundreds flee homes as rebels clash with government militias

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Muslim guerrillas clashed with a pro-government militia in the southern Philippines, prompting about 300 villagers to flee their homes, rebels and a military official said Thursday.

The Moro Islamic Liberation Front accused the militiamen of attacking its positions in three villages in Maguindanao province's Shariff Aguak town with mortars and gunfire starting late Wednesday, prompting the guerrillas to retaliate, rebel spokesman Eid Kabalu said. At least two guerrillas have been wounded.

After the guerrillas attacked a key outpost of the militiamen—armed civilian volunteers under the control of Maguindanao officials—the fighting eased Thursday, Kabalu said.

"We don't subscribe to the dictum that if somebody throws stones at us, we should throw back a loaf of bread," Kabalu told The Associated Press by telephone. "In this case, they're throwing 81 mm mortar shells at us."

A government-rebel cease-fire committee was taking steps to settle the conflict, which could have been set off by longtime land or political feuds, he said.

Maguindanao's governor, Andal Ampatuan, who has had differences with some MILF commanders, escaped a car bomb attack that killed six people, including two of his relatives, early last Friday in Shariff Aguak. Police blamed two MILF commanders for the attack.

MILF rebels suspect the militiamen, some of whom are under Ampatuan's control, may have launched attacks on the guerrillas in retaliation for the bomb attack on the governor, Kabalu said, but he acknowledged his group had no evidence to back up the suspicion.

Government troops were not involved in the conflict in Maguindanao, about 900 kilometers (558 miles) south of Manila, a military official said.

A local Red Cross unit said 60 families, sensing the brewing conflict, fled villages near the scenes of fighting early Wednesday.

The MILF and the government forged a cease-fire in 2003, halting widespread fighting and fostering peace negotiations being brokered by neighboring Malaysia. Both sides are optimistic they could sign a peace accord as early as this year.

The MILF, which the military says has at least 11,000 armed fighters, has been waging an insurrection for self-rule in the impoverished southern region of Mindanao for decades.



## A VISIT TO SPAIN

**Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, left, smiles as she shakes hands with Spanish Prime Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero, before a meeting at the Moncloa palace in Madrid, Thursday, June 29, 2006. Arroyo is to sign a defense agreement with Spain and meet with King Juan Carlos. Zapatero congratulated Arroyo for signing a law abolishing the death penalty on Saturday, bringing Philippine policy on capital punishment in line with the European Union. The king was to host a lunch for Arroyo on Friday. This was Arroyo's first visit to Spain as president.**

## 'Woman's injuries consistent with rape'

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—A Filipino doctor testifying at a rape trial involving four U.S. Marines said Thursday that the complainant suffered injuries consistent with a sexual assault.

Dr. Rolando Ortiz II, of the James Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo city, west of Manila, told the court he examined the 22-year-old woman—identified by the court only as "Nicole"—two days after she was allegedly raped by a Marine while the three others cheered him on.

Asked if her injuries were consistent with rape, he replied, "It is consistent."

He said the woman suffered bruises on her arms, legs and genital area.

The rape charge is punishable by up to 40 years in prison. The Marines have refused to answer the charge, and the judge entered a plea of innocent for them.

Prosecutors contend the woman was attacked Nov. 1 in a van at Subic Bay, near Olongapo, by Lance Cpl. Daniel Smith as Lance Cpl. Keith Silkwood, Lance Cpl. Dominic Duplantis and Staff Sgt. Chad Carpentier cheered on the assault.

The Marines had just finished counterterrorism maneuvers with Philippine troops.

The case sparked anti-American protests in the former U.S. colony and is seen as a black mark on exercises credited with helping weaken al-Qaida-linked militants in the country's restive south.

The men were part of the 31st Marine Expeditionary Force stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

The U.S. Embassy, which has custody of the men under a treaty with the Philippine government, hasn't released their ages or hometowns.

During cross-examination by defense lawyers, Ortiz said the bruises could have been 12 hours to four days old, so they could have been sustained before the alleged rape.

## Communist rebels kill 2 farmers working for Honasan

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**—Communist guerrillas killed two farm workers in the Philippines on Thursday, as a top general insisted the military has the upper hand in the decades-long insurgency despite suffering more casualties than the rebels this year.

Army spokesman Lt. Col. Bartolome Bacarro told reporters that about 20 New People's Army rebels attacked a police detachment in San Jacinto town, about 370 kilometers (230 miles) south-east of Manila, then proceeded to nearby Batuan town, where they ambushed and shot dead two farm workers.

It wasn't clear what prompted the killings.

The victims worked at a farm owned by the family of former Sen. Gregorio "Gringo" Honasan, a veteran coup plotter who went into hiding after he was charged with a failed 2003 military uprising. He is also sought in connection with a Feb. 24 coup plot against President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Arroyo earlier this month ordered the military to wipe out the 7,000-strong, 37-year-old Maoist insurgency within two years, although officials had esti-

mated it would take six to 10 years.

The military on Wednesday released figures showing that 104 soldiers and 87 rebels have been killed in fighting this year.

But armed forces chief Gen. Generoso Senga insisted Thursday the military was winning the war.

"The figures don't mean that we are losing. In fact, based on our order of battle, the insurgency movement is not gaining strength," Senga said.

He said the military suffered more casualties because the rebels were attacking government forces even

while they were on "humanitarian or non-combat missions."

"Many of the victims were attacked while conducting civil military operations, conducting non-combat operations. They are less secured because they are not in combat," Senga said.

The rebels, who claim to have a presence in nearly 70 of the Philippines' 79 provinces, suspended Norwegian-brokered peace talks with the government two years ago, mainly to protest Manila's refusal to ask the U.S. and the European Union to remove them from terrorist blacklists.



# PINOYSTYLE

## 'I still miss Kris but...'

By NINI VALERA  
INQUIRER

Pampanga governor and actor Mark Lapid said he is no longer comfortable in the company of ex-girlfriend Kris Aquino, even if only as a guest on the show biz talk show "The Buzz" to promote his movie, "Batas Militar."

"I went on the show earlier for another movie," Mark, 27, told Inquirer Entertainment Monday night in a one-on-one interview. "We [Kris and I] said hi, but it was Tito Boy Abunda who interviewed me."

Since his breakup with Kris, Mark said, he has not taken up with another girl, despite tabloid stories linking him to former leading lady Kristine Reyes. His latest screen partner is Tanya Garcia.

But Mark admitted that he still missed Kris. "I [still] treasure our times together. I am happy that she has found someone to love her," he said, referring to Kris' husband, cager-model James Yap. "She deserves to be happy. She's a remarkable girl."

Mark said he and Kris were together for about three months in 2004. Contrary to rumors, he insisted, they had parted ways without bitterness. He denied that Kris had ended their relationship because she had caught him with another woman.

"There was no third party," Mark said. He did not elaborate. "She was the one who ended it. It's said that we are no longer together, but it's enough that I had known her."

He described Kris as a good-hearted person who worked hard for the future of her son Joshua, by former partner Philip Salvador.

Mark said he currently has his hands full as Pampanga governor, and has no time for a serious relationship.

"I make movies only if the producer agrees to shoot most of it in Pampanga, so I wouldn't have to go far on location," he explained. "My job as a public servant is the most important thing for me."

Mark said he had started in politics at 17, as chair of the Sangguniang Kabataan. He liked being in public service, he said, but he also wants a foot in show biz.

"We were raised in a show biz atmosphere," he said. "My father (Sen. Lito Lapid) was an action star, and he raised us on his movie earnings. So it was natural for me to want to be part of that world."

He said he also felt that he owed the movie industry some form of payback for his father's success.

"That's why we produced this movie—to help keep the movie industry alive," he said of "Batas Militar," which the Lapid family produced for P8 million. "In our small way, my family wants to help movie workers, like the stunt men from whose ranks my father had come."

If he didn't succeed as an actor, Mark said, he would concentrate on politics. The youngest official to become governor of his province, he has his eyes set on a second term.

"Show biz is a dream," he said. "My job as governor is reality."



Kris Aquino

## Why Mark still has no girlfriend

By MARINEL CRUZ  
INQ7.NET

**S**inger Mark Bautista confessed that he used to feel uncomfortable on the set of his noon-time variety show, "ASAP," whenever couple Christian Bautista and Rachele Ann Go were around.

"After the news that Rachele and I were being linked to each other came out on 'The Buzz,' we all felt ill-at-ease on the set," Mark told entertainment writers over lunch last week. "The thing is, I didn't actually tell 'The Buzz' that I had courted her."

Apart from Mark, Rachele Ann was also linked to male celebrities Erik Santos, Jed Madela and Luis Manzano. But it was only recently that she admitted to having a relationship with Christian, whom she said courted her for two years.

"I talked with Rachele and Christian about it. I made sure of that. We work in one show. It's hard to be around people you're not comfortable with," Mark pointed out. "Everything is OK now. We're all cool about it."

The lunch party was to celebrate Mark's winning the Favorite Remake Award ("I Need You") from Myx Music Channel. Also present during the party were Rachele Ann (Favorite Female Artist), Rivermaya (Favorite Music Video and Favorite Media Soundtrack, both for "You'll Be Safe Here"), and Anne Curtis (Favorite Guest Appearance in a Music Video in Mark Bautista's "I Need You").

**How come you don't have a girlfriend? Is it because you're so busy with work?**

I know it's not normal [not to have a girlfriend]. I'm hardly around. I just don't want to be unfair to her. I'm busy with the provincial tour for "Pop Heartthrob." We've gone to Liloan, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro. I'll be having shows with Sarah Geronimo in Bahrain and Saipan later this year.

If ever I'd have a girlfriend, I hope she will not be from show biz. Ang gulo kasi.

**Are you torpe?**

I used to be. I guess it helped that



Mark Bautista

I'm an artista now. I'm more confident. I used to feel intimidated by girls, especially those who come from Manila. I've only had two relationships in the province. We're still in touch.

**What happened to your budding romance with Jasmine Trias?**

We became close after working in a show together. It's true that I brought her flowers and watched her show here, but I didn't court her. If

she were living here, things would have been different.

**What do you look for in a girl?**

Physically? I like the chinky-eyed and morena types. I also like them to be tall. Jasmine is a really sweet girl. I like that about her.

**How are Filipinas living abroad "interesting?"**

I met one during my first trip to the United States. She's in her 30s. She wanted us to meet at the gym in the hotel I was staying at. I didn't show up because the meeting time had been too early.

That night, I heard someone knocking on my hotel door. I was already in my sleepwear then. It was her. She handed me a Fossil watch. I took it from her and simply closed the door.

I only realized how rude I was the following day. I was worried that I wouldn't have the chance to thank her because we were already scheduled to leave that day. It was good that she showed up at the hotel again.

Days after I arrived home, I received a package from her. She sent me bed sheets with our picture printed on them. She also gave me a CD of my songs, which she recorded. She stopped sending me stuff long before the Champions returned for our second US tour. I never saw her again.

There's another girl, but she's not Filipina. She's a princess in Bahrain. She's autistic. She said she had a big crush on me. People there said the princess recognized me because her nannies were Filipinas.

**You've recorded albums, appeared in a movie and won an award. Is there anything else you wish to accomplish?**

Ang magkaroon ng girlfriend (laughs).

## No 'Idols' here

By MARINEL CRUZ  
INQUIRER

**DAVAO CITY**—"Davao is not the place to look for an 'Idol.' All the good ones are in Cebu," declared Pilita Corrales, a Cebuana and one of the three judges of the reality talent search "Philippine Idol" on ABC 5.

Corrales shares the task with master composer Ryan Cayabyab and rapper-TV host Francis Magalona.

Only 17 out of 75 contestants who auditioned on Monday at the Waterfront Hotels and Casinos got the coveted Golden Ticket. They will be flown to Manila to compete in the theater auditions at the CCP Main Theater in August.

The 75 contenders were selected from fast-track screenings conducted in Cagayan de Oro, Zamboanga and Davao cities, as well as from pre-casting and casting auditions held here on June 23.

"It's easier to judge now. Maraming hindi magaling dito," said Cayabyab, Mr. C to industry colleagues. "I really did not expect much from Davao. We suppose we will have a more difficult time in Cebu."

"People here are shy. I know because I used to handle a singing contest here," Corrales added.

"But there are a lot of interesting people."

She said a contestant approached her while she was taking a break. "He asked me to help him get to Manila. I said, 'Just do your best.' Then I noticed that some of his teeth were missing. He said he had left his dentures at home. I really wanted to say, 'Go back and get them,' but I kept my mouth shut. He should have come more prepared."

Mr. C spotted Ritchie Asibal, 28, from Cagayan de Oro, and decided that the aspirant could very well slug it out with the others in Manila. Ritchie had failed in the CDO fast-track screening and decided to try again here. He was the fourth to get a Golden Ticket.

Corrales advised JR Oclarit, 19, to lose weight before flying to Manila. JR, the sixth pick, weighs 160 lbs.

"I've learned to accept the fact that there are people who join the search for monetary reasons," said Mr. C. "I felt bad saying no to them at first. I'm used to it now."

Julieto Alquizar, 19, who said he wanted to make it so he could send young siblings to school, was one of those who got the thumbs-down. He wept and pleaded so hard, he had to be escorted out by security personnel.

One factor he strictly required of contestants, said Magalona, was proper diction. "There are many Visayan Pinoys who lose their accent when they sing. That's a plus," he said. "It's also important for contestants to know by heart the lyrics of the songs they sing."

Major auditions in Cebu will be held at the nearly two-hectare International Academy of Film and Television in Lapu-Lapu City on July 24. A total of 25 contestants will be picked from the Visayan region.

"They might cancel each other out when all the contestants get to Manila," said Magalona.

"Yes," Cayabyab agreed, "especially when they stand side by side with their competitors and get to compare notes."



Ryan Cayabyab



# 'First row, thank you!'

By **EDSON C. TANDOC JR.**  
INQUIRER

Junjun, 20, a graduating nursing student, said he was prepared to quit school if he made it to the finals.

Charlene, 26, a salesperson, had given up a full day's pay even if she only had P20 in her pocket.

Malou, 24, an accounting officer at a supermarket chain, had taken a leave, telling office mates she was applying for another job.

They had a single goal.

For seven hours on Saturday, the three of them—along with about 4,300 other dreamers—waited in the crowded and narrow corridors of SM Manila, suffering the intense noontime heat. They were drenched in sweat, their legs aching. Still, they were raring to flash their sweetest smiles.

It was the first audition day for the "Pinoy Dream Academy" and the next season of "Pinoy Big Brother"—ABS-CBN talent searches.

When finally they stood in front of a lone judge, the dream they shared was shattered in less than 30 seconds.

From the thousands who showed up, only about 100 would go through to the next round.

We were there, too—Margaux, a fellow reporter, and myself—never mind that it was our day off. We stood in line for hours like the rest, then waited some more, on our feet most of the time—

something we had never done before.

We arrived at 10 a.m., early you might think. But more than 3,000 people had gotten there ahead of us. They must have queued up at daybreak.

The sun was raging. We were told to line up on the road just outside the mall.

Malou was standing behind us. She said she wanted a chance to help send seven siblings to school.

She was wearing high-heeled sandals. She winced when I accidentally stepped on her toes.

## Brisk business

Behind her was Junjun—5'5" tall, fair and cute. His teeth were pearly white, probably the reason he was one of 24 finalists on "Close-Up To Fame," another talent search.

He had come straight from Davao.

The three of us shared my umbrella. In front of us was Charlene. She had forgotten her birth certificate, a requirement for the tryouts and no one could bring it over.

Charlene considered fetching the document herself, but she figured she wouldn't have enough money to come back.

Sidewalk vendors enjoyed brisk business selling bottled water, candies, fruit juices. Stalls inside the mall sent waiters outside to take orders for pizzas, burgers, iced tea...

"Pinoy Dream Academy" is like



Some members of the cast of the first edition of "Pinoy Big Brother."

"Pinoy Big Brother," where strangers are locked inside a house for 100 days, with cameras trained on them 24/7.

"The twist is, Pinoy Dream Academy is a singing competition," director Lauren Dyogi would later say about the show, which starts airing on August 26.

## 'Faster! Faster!'

I was wearing a gray shirt, which looked much darker from perspiration. I noticed that exhausted aspirants leaned against railings, glass windows, rough walls. Not a few freshened up—powdering their cheeks, coloring their lips, shading their eyelids.

At long last, we were inside the mall.

We were told to make a run for the

stage. The mall guards yelled, "Faster! Faster!"

As we walked up, I glimpsed a smile on Malou's lips, a sparkle in Charlene's eyes. We were one step closer to the dream.

Onstage, chests out, we proudly wore big number-stickers. We were in

the first row.

Dyogi was holding a microphone, his eyes restless.

Finally, he spoke: "First row, thank you very much."

The next moment, we were being escorted down the stage and out of the audition area.

# John Lloyd's girlfriend is a magazine editor



By **DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL**  
INQUIRER

My friends from the "fashionista" world insist that John Lloyd's current squeeze is Liz Uy, the fab fashion editor of Preview magazine. They were together during the DJ Tiesto event at the PICC last March and the Preview anniversary bash last Saturday. My source adds, "John Lloyd's ex, Ciara Sotto, was also around during the mag's party but I didn't sense any tension naman." Are the hip couple keeping their romance low-key, lest show biz intrigues turn everything off-key?

## Plea for privacy

I texted Pia Guanio for the real score between her and Vic Sotto. They have both remained mum about the issue.

She replied, "I just know I'm happy. Hope you are, too."



I texted her back: "Is that a confirmation?" Her response: "It's a 'no comment.'"

As a friend, I respect Pia's plea for privacy. But won't her viewers find it odd that a talk show host who grills celebs about their love life refuses to talk about hers?

I remember what my kumareng Janice de Belen told me when she quit "S-Files": "I felt weird asking guests personal questions when I was hesitant to open up about what was going on in my life at that time."

Maybe there ought to be a commandment in the biz that goes, "Don't ask of others what you wouldn't want to be asked of you."

## Classy, not tacky

Ruffa Gutierrez would rather set aside all the hullabaloo about the pricey gown she'll be wearing as one of the

hosts of the 22nd PMPC Star Awards for Movies tomorrow (delayed telecast at 10:45 p.m. on Studio 23).

"I'm not tacky. I'm classy. I don't flaunt how much what I'm wearing costs. It all started as a joke that was blown out of proportion. I'd rather that people don't look at what I'm wearing but at how well I will host the awards. It's been quite a while. I'm particularly excited about the affair 'cause my two daughters will walk down the red carpet also."

Motherhood. That's one thing Ruffa wears so well. More than all the gowns that wear out, anyway.

## Princess Lovi

"Da King's" princess Lovi, now a young woman at 17, releases her much anticipated 13-track debut album "The Best of My Heart" (under Sony BMG). "In this album, I gave my all... heart and soul," said Lovi. It's a chameleon-like variety of changing moods, from the romantic ballad to the upbeat. Among the songs in the collection, she considers "You're Still Here," the one she dedicates to her late dad, as the closest to her heart.

I remember how her dad used to call me "Proxy" because every time I bumped into him at weddings where he was a ninong, I would be the proxy for my mom as a ninang.No

No doubt, Tito Ron is now proudly telling my mom in heaven, "Inday, my daughter Lovi can sing better than the choir of angels we have here."

That is, I can hear him harping about Lovi amid all the harps playing up there.

# 'Na-scam ka na ba?' Con artists, beware

By **NESTOR TORRE**  
INQUIRER

QTV 11 has made a name for itself as a channel with some innovative programs. A number of them have turned out to be duds, others have veered away from their original forms and intent, but some have continued to make a difference on the local boob tube and that's all to the good.

We hope the same thing happens to QTV11's latest show "Na-Scam Ka Na Ba?" which we caught last Tuesday, June 20 at 8:30 p.m.

The show serves a valuable purpose because it warns viewers about the many ways that crafty and devious con artists think up to part others from their money or possessions.

Hosted by Leo Martinez and Maureen Larrazabal, the program's first telecast focused on scams involving cellphones and other electronic equipment and services.

That was a savvy thrust because electronics are high on many people's awareness list, so viewer interest in the initial telecast was more or less assured.

We trust that viewers took note of the many scams related to cell phones and bogus e-loading stations, so they won't be as easily victimized from here on in.

Martinez, in his Batangeno persona, is a good choice as program host for this sort of show because of his no-nonsense and masa character and appeal.

Have you been scammed? You may want to let the program know about it, so that the con job can be analyzed, counter-moves plotted out, and viewers warned against falling

for similar schemes.

For our part, we're pretty clueless about other folks' hidden agendas, so we've been victimized a number of times. Once, a friend asked us to help her make her mark in the pyramiding world—and, despite our "friendship," we ended up kissing our "help" goodbye.

Another time, another "friend" borrowed money from us, and offered some "diamonds" as "collateral." Well, the gems turned out to be as bogus as our fair-weather "friend."

One other "friend" wanted to start an egg-selling business (of all things), and we gamely provided part of the capital. As expected, we ended up—with egg on our face.

Here's an unusual but hopefully instructive series of events: When we were directing a film, a movie worker asked us for a "loan." As expected, it was never paid.

Some months later, we acted in a play, and the movie worker showed up at the theater to ask for another "loan."

This happened several times more, with all of his appearances timed to the opening of the latest production we were involved in, either as actor or director.

What was the "logic" here? Belatedly, we figured out that our occasional visitors thought that we earned a lot from each new production, so we would feel more generous and accede to his umpteenth request for a "loan."

He was wrong, of course. We weren't being generous, we were just a soft touch. Plus, the sums he "borrowed" weren't all that huge, so not much harm done...

—There's a lesson in there somewhere, and we sure hope we've learned it.



# OPINYON

## Mirrors

I read Amalia Cullarin Rosales' essay on Jose Rizal last Monday, June 19, the national hero's 145th birthday, and found the part where she talks about the reaction of her students to reading Rizal for the first time fascinating. Among them:

"The course opened my eyes to the greatness of Filipinos."

"This course is for all time. Rizal's writings are comparable to the Bible."

"I discovered the defects of our people during Rizal's time—the same defects are still in existence until now."

"The messages of Rizal are still very relevant today—for the youth to love their country and defend it and their rights as a people against any foreigner."

You get the drift.

It would help though to think of Rizal's writings not as gospel truth but as great literature—which the Bible also is. The teaching of Rizal has also suffered in the past from his works being turned into sacred text. In fact, it is full of wit and humor, Rizal being past master at satire.

Some of his essays are utterly droll, as when he apologizes for the lowly Filipinos taking a bath every day as opposed to the aristocratic Spanish who regaled the world only with perfumed bodies.

As to our defending our rights against any foreigner, substitute the word "tyrant" for "foreigner," and I'm with you wholeheartedly. Rizal wasn't just a bitter critic of foreign rule, he was a bitter critic of tyranny in whatever way it showed itself. He excoriated the bad side of the indio as much as that of his ruler, and demanded that he live with pride and dignity. He would not have stood for a local tyranny any more than a foreign one.

But I do appreciate the things Rosales' students have said for one reason. I too felt that way reading Philippine history for the first time—in my

case that was the product of becoming an activist more than attending class—and Rizal's works in particular. The "Noli" and "Fili" truly were eye-openers, turning Rizal from statue to flesh-and-blood, a singular Filipino who struggled to understand and articulate the vicissitudes of his time. Indeed, turning the past into a beacon for us who were floundering in the stormy seas of history to follow.

Rosales herself says Rizal's characters continue to live among us. We still have Señor Pasta, who seeks only personal advancement; we still have Capitan Tiago, who is subservient to higher-ups; we still have Kabesang Tales, who is driven to rebellion by hardship and oppression; we still have Doña Victorina, who takes on the airs of the masters with buffoonish results. If I remember right, Doña Victorina, believed that the "de" after a surname guaranteed aristocracy, so she had not just one but two "de's" after her name: Doña Victorina de de Espadaña. Rizal was funny, even if he was also deadly serious.

Well, Rizal did say one very important thing—which is twin brother to Santayana's famous aphorism—that people who do not read their history are condemned to repeat it. Rizal said those who do not see where they came from will never get to where they are going. That has become a very prophetic warning for us.

If Rizal's characters continue to live today, it is because we have failed to read history, or indeed read him. Our world today is not unlike the one he lived in, the superficial differences in technology aside. Rizal's world was one where lies and hypocrisy held sway, upheld viciously by the



### There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

liberal application of the sword. It was a world where spiritual and physical growth was stunted by a culture that militated against it. It was a world where the indios were reduced to despair and indifference, the intelligentsia opting to live abroad if not acquiescing to the tyranny at home. So it was then, so it is now.

Rizal's writings truly have much to say to our own time. But more than his writings, his life itself has much to say to our time, and that is probably the greatest legacy he bequeathed to us. The guy was monumentally brilliant, a Renaissance man through and through. He was a poet, a novelist, a painter, a sculptor, an ophthalmologist, a botanist, and God knows what else. He even excelled in fencing and pistol shoot-

did. Instead, he chose to come home despite having a reasonably good life as an exile abroad and despite the entreaties of his friends not to, because the Spanish authorities could not abide truth and criticism, which were often one and the same. Instead, he chose to rebel against the injustice and folly of his time—however he remained of two minds till the end about the wisdom of an armed uprising—trying to push back the limits of the possible with all the genius and generosity he could muster, embracing the fate that went along with it with grace and fortitude.

More than anything he wrote, it was what Rizal did that has much to teach us. His life was his greatest work, a story continues to unfold to this day but whose meaning continues to elude us. I can understand the blasts of illumination

**The "Noli" and "Fili" truly were eye-openers, turning Rizal from statue to flesh-and-blood, a singular Filipino who struggled to understand and articulate the vicissitudes of his time. Indeed, turning the past into a beacon for us who were floundering in the stormy seas of history to follow.**

ing. He lived in many places in Europe and knew several Western languages, including a bit of English. By rights, he could have joined the ranks of the elite, the social circles in which they moved not being closed to him, notwithstanding that he came from modest origins.

Instead, he chose not to be oblivious to the plight of his land and people and brought it to light in novel and polemic and whatever else he

and bursts of admiration Rosales' students have experienced and strain to express. I've felt them too, not the least at the realization we, too, have a man for all seasons, a Filipino we can be proud of and want to emulate.

Read history. You will find, as the most thrilling and frightening sensation of all, that you are not looking at the yellowed pages of a book, you are looking at a mirror.

## Too much baggage

The problem with the second impeachment complaint against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is that it carries an excessive tonnage made up of several hefty complaints, signed by more than 200 supernumeraries, and an incoherent mixture of good intentions.

With this bill of lading, it is easy to see that the presence of Bishop Deogracias Yñiguez, who filed a separate complaint, in the cargo hold is a blessing. He can say Mass daily beseeching God that that this expedition does not sink from being overweight so that he will not be jettisoned as excess baggage.

Yñiguez's complaint, I understand, is no different from the complaint filed by the citizens' group of more than 200. Thus, the good bishop's complaint does not add intellectual weight to the main complaint, especially since he looks more luminous in his implacable and emotional denunciation of the Arroyo regime than in his mental output.

This new impeachment expedition calls to mind the sinking of the Spanish galleon San Diego, off the coast of Batangas province. Antonio de Morga used the galleon, which was heavily freighted with treasures and provisions, to engage Dutch Admiral van Noort's agile man-of-war. The Dutch warship ran circles around the lumbering galleon, and punched broadsides on its hull.

The new complaint has repackaged

the charges dismissed by the House of Representatives last year. Its claim to innovation lies only in that it has a large number of signatures of prestigious or "eminent" citizens, who seem to be more impressive because of their names than the substance and strategy of their undertaking.

First, the numbers game requires an impeachment complaint to have at least 78 signatures of congressmen so it can be sent to the Senate for an impeachment trial—not the 200 signatures on the complaint. What is crucial is getting the required number of

congressmen to endorse the complaint so that it will move forward. Can the citizens' initiative muster the warm bodies in the House?

This is obstacle No. 1. It is an encounter with political reality. It can't be overcome by wishful thinking on the part of 200 or even thousands of signatories to the complaint.

Second, it is the substance of the complaint which will count more than the number of signatures in giving gravitas to the complaint and make it difficult for congressmen to dismiss it capriciously. The complaint runs to 150 pages, including 25 pages detailing the particulars of the three main charges, and annexes. This weight is enough to sink the vessel.

The complaint bunches up the charges in three broad allegations charging that the President: (1) committed graft and corruption, and betrayed public trust when she exercised dictatorial powers to suppress the lawful exercise of the people's right to free speech, assembly, free press ... and the legislative power to inquire into matters relating to or affecting the legitimacy of her presidency; (2) violated the Constitution and betrayed public trust when she "al-

lowed abetted, and countenanced gross violations of human rights"; and (3) "engaged in graft and corruption, entered into illegal government contracts and concealed her conjugal assets."

Although the new complaint repeats allegations in the old complaint concerning the alleged stealing of the 2004 elections, it expands on this issue and raises new charges alleging exercise of dictatorial powers and gross violation of human rights. It no longer anchors its case on alleged electoral manipulation in the "Garcillano tapes." It goes further with the accusation that the

President "directed or allowed" fraud in the 2004 elections. It alleges vote tampering in Cebu, Pampanga, Iloilo, Bohol and the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao. It accuses her of impropriety in appointing Virgilio Garcillano and engaging in "unlawful correspondence" for the purpose of tampering with the vote.

These new allegations reinforce the main thrust of the complaint, attacking the legitimacy of her presidency. In summary, the new complaint expands the range of fire, opening a wide field in which the complainants would have to prove their allegations. In this re-

gard, the new complaint is less focused than the dismissed complaint and is stretched thinly over a wide area.

This approach represents a strategy making the new impeachment an open-ended work in progress and poses problems for the complainants over which issue to focus on so that they can pin down the President. They have applied the carpet-bombing formula, hoping that some of their bombs would score a direct hit.

It is not clear whether the main weapon of this initiative is the issue alleging election fraud, which involves the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency. The two other broad issues, which are new, have nothing to do with legitimacy.

The President's political foes have to choose their weapons and priorities. In this shotgun approach, the strategy seems just to oust her on any issue and at all costs, just like the way the US Federal Bureau of Investigation got Al Capone on tax evasion charges instead of more atrocious crimes.

If the purpose is to trap the President in the dragnet of an omnibus impeachment complaint, then the claim that the aim of this new initiative is to establish the "truth" of election rigging allegations and put closure to the legitimacy issue, which is at the root of the political crisis, becomes hollow. On such a wide range of issues, it seems physically impossible to make a case in an impeachment process.



### Analysis

By AMANDO DORONILA  
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

**It is not clear whether the main weapon of this initiative is the issue alleging election fraud, which involves the legitimacy of the Arroyo presidency. The two other broad issues, which are new, have nothing to do with legitimacy.**



# SAMU'T SARI

EDUARDO SIGUENZA



## GUAM VISIT

Philippine press secretary Ignacio Bunye, second from right, and his wife Oca Bunye pose with Guam's Lt. Gov. Kaleo Moylan, second from left, and Sen. Benjamin J. Cruz during a courtesy call that Bunye made on the Guam officials. Bunye was invited by former governor Karl Gutierrez to speak at a political gathering last Friday.

EDUARDO SIGUENZA



## COURTESY CALL

Philippine press secretary Ignacio Bunye, second from right, and his wife Oca Bunye pay a courtesy call on Guam Lt. Gov. Kaleo Moylan, left, on June 22, during a visit to the U.S. territory. Bunye was in Guam at the invitation of former governor Karl Gutierrez to speak at a political gathering last Friday.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE



## JOINT PARTY

Businessman Gani Benoza, second from right, and multi-awarded tennis player Aramis Dailo, third standing from left, pose for a group photo with family members and friends during their joint party at Paupau Beach last Sunday.



## LIBDAY PLANNING

Officers and members of the United Filipino Organization, led by president Corie Borja, center seated, meet to plan for the making of the float that the organization plans to use during the Liberation Day parade on July 4.



## MICRO GAMES VOLUNTEERS

CNMI Power and MOVER team up to volunteer as the cleanup crew for the 6th Micronesian Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



The MOVER organization led by president Maritess Castillo were assigned to handle the cleanup and recycling efforts at the Marianas High School, as part of the activities for the 6th Micronesian Games. They are shown here in a souvenir photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



Members of the CNMI Power assigned at the Ada Gym make wire baskets that will be used for recycling aluminum cans and plastic bottles during the 6th Micronesian Games.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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